



# Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, Inc.



TO: The Honorable Paul Doyle and Rep. Joe Taborsak  
Co-Chairs, General Law Committee  
Members of the General Law Committee

FROM: Lisa Stevens, Executive Director

DATE: February 24, 2011

RE: **SB-946, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF  
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING LAWS**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) supports SB-946, which requires the state Department of Consumer Protection to develop a plan to more vigorously enforce the state's occupational licensing laws to protect consumers from unlicensed or unscrupulous contractors.

We believe contractors who have unlicensed "illegal" workers performing work that requires a license or registration should be punished. We are also very concerned with the number of employers who fail to register apprentices in accordance with the law. As a result, when such unregistered apprentices apply to sit for a licensing exam, they are often turned away because their apprenticeship hours cannot be documented. This practice hurts the entire industry, because it discourages and creates barriers for people who are hoping to enter the licensed trades. It also creates potentially unsafe work environments and possible danger for the party for whom the work is being performed.

IEC-NE therefore supports efforts to enhance occupational licensing enforcement. We also support strengthening the role of the examining boards in enforcement decisions to ensure that violations are reviewed by a balanced cross-section of industry professionals. This will ensure that laws and regulations are consistently enforced and send a signal to contractors that violations will not be tolerated.

We look forward to working with union and non-union licensed trade groups to achieve this common goal which will benefit all of our industries as well as Connecticut consumers.

*The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England is the premier trade association representing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island independent electrical contractors aggressively working with the industry to establish a free environment for merit shop -- a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all.*

1800 Silas Deane Highway, Rear Building, Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
(860) 563-4953 Fax (860) 563-5453 Toll Free (866) GO IEC NE  
Email: [lisa@iecne.org](mailto:lisa@iecne.org) [www.iecne.org](http://www.iecne.org)